



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

18 MARCH 2022

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Glendale – California Resident Convicted of \$1.7 Million COVID-19 Relief Fraud

(U) A federal jury in the Western District of North Carolina convicted two men today for the submission of fraudulent loan applications seeking more than \$1.7 million in forgivable Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans guaranteed by the Small Business Administration (SBA) under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. According to authorities, Izzat Freitekh, 55, of Waxhaw, North Carolina, and his son Tarik Freitekh, 33, whose last known residence was in Glendale, California, obtained \$1.7 million by submitting multiple fraudulent PPP loan applications for companies owned by Izzat Freitekh: La Shish Kabob, La Shish Kabob Catering, Green Apple Catering, and Aroma Packaging. The loan applications misrepresented the number of employees and payroll expenses. After obtaining the fraudulent loan proceeds, the defendants engaged in unlawful monetary transactions with the proceeds of the scheme, including making \$30,000 payments to family members.

SOURCE: 17 March 2022, [DOJ](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Texas – US Wants Jail Time for Rioter Who Said She Would 'Absolutely' Storm US Capitol Again

(U) Houston – A Texas flower shop owner who bragged about storming the US Capitol on 6 January 2021, and said she'd "absolutely" do it again should be sentenced to 75-days behind bars, federal prosecutors said Wednesday. Justice Department attorneys argued that Jenny Cudd, a Donald Trump supporter who admitted that she called for a "revolution" before the attack, said rioters "did break down" the door of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and said in an interview that she would storm the US Capitol again "in a heartbeat," should serve 75-days in jail, followed by supervised release for 12-months. Cudd, who was granted permission in February 2021 to go to Mexico for a "bonding retreat" with her employees, said in a social media video after the riot that former Vice President Mike Pence had "betrayed" the "patriots."

SOURCE: 18 March 2022, [NBC News](#)

(U) New York – NYC Man Gets 8-Years in Prison After Trying to Join Taliban

(U) New York City – A man convicted of trying to help the Taliban fight American forces was sentenced Thursday to eight-years in prison. Delowar Mohammed Hossain was sentenced in Manhattan federal court by Judge Sidney H. Stein. Hossain was convicted during a one-week trial in October of trying to provide material support for terrorism by contributing funds, goods and services to the Taliban. Authorities apprehended Hossain in 2019 at Kennedy Airport, interrupting his plan to travel to Afghanistan. Prior to the trial, the judge allowed the government to take steps to protect the identities of witnesses, including a New York City police officer who corresponded with Hossain in an undercover capacity prior to his arrest.

SOURCE: 18 March 2022, [AP](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Germany – City Closes ‘Pro-Terrorism’ Hezbollah Mosque and Association

(U) Münster – Police in the western German city of Münster on Thursday stormed the Hezbollah-controlled Imam-Mahdi Mosque and its affiliated center because intelligence determined that the mosque and its center are pursuing violations of the constitution. In 2019, pro-Hezbollah terrorism activities were unfolding in the controlled Imam-Mahdi Mosque. According to reporting, a Hezbollah member declared in the mosque “We Have Pledged Allegiance to [Ali] Khamenei; We Are Accused of Terrorism and Are Proud of It.” Khamenei is the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Germany banned all Hezbollah activities nationally in 2020.

SOURCE: 18 March 2022, [Jerusalem Post](#)

(U) Niger – Suspected Jihadists Kill at Least 19 in Bus Attack

(U) Fono – Armed men attacked a bus killing at least 19 passengers in western Niger near the border with Burkina Faso, the Association of Passenger Transport Companies said Thursday. A dozen suspected jihadists on motorcycles intercepted the bus on Wednesday near the village of Fono, shooting the passengers before setting the bus on fire, the association said. Several passengers were injured, and others are missing, it said. The bus was heading from Burkina Faso’s capital, Ouagadougou, to Niger’s capital, Niamey. Trucks were found still on fire at the site of the incident. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, but similar attacks have been carried out in the Tillaberi region near the border with Burkina Faso by jihadist groups linked to both al-Qa’ida and the Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS).

SOURCE: 18 March 2022, [AP](#)

(U) Sudan – 17 Dead After Armed Group Attack in Sudan’s Jabal Moon

(U) Jabal Moon – At least 17 people have been killed and four villages burned down this week in the gold-rich Jabal Moon Mountain area of Sudan, after attacks by what is believed to be the government-linked militia known locally as the Janjaweed. Among those killed were three workers with Darfur-based Human Rights Monitors who had been on a mission assessing the human rights situation in the area after similar incidents in the past. The area, near the western border with Chad, is inhabited mostly by agrarian non-Arab communities who have, for years, witnessed repeated attacks by predominantly Arab armed groups. All these groups are believed to be affiliated with the Janjaweed, a name that persists when people speak of the group that is now known as the Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

SOURCE: 18 March 2022, [Al Jazeera](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV, OR CALL 916-636-2900.